

Abraham Lincoln papers

From William M. Dickson to Abraham Lincoln, June 10, 1861

Cincinnati June 10. 1861.

Dear Sir.

I desire that the bearer of this, Hon. Thomas M. Key should see you. He visits you in reference to public matters. As Judge Advocate of the Ohio regiments, he is a member of General McClellan's Staff. Some days since at the instance of Gen'l McClellan he visited Kentucky for the purpose of ascertaining the position and views of the Kentucky Union men, and is now fully possessed of the same, more so, perhaps, than any other man. To communicate these to you and to advise with you, is the object of his visit to Washington. Judge Key was for five years judge of the Commercial Court of Cincinnati, terminating in 1852, and has been a member of the State Senate of Ohio for the last two years, — is yet, until October next. He has the entire confidence of this community. Of Whig antecedents, upon the decease of that party, he attached himself to the Democratic party and has acted with it — until the present time. He is a true patriot, sustains the Government in its effort to put down treason, of unquestioned integrity, capacity and reliability. He has special fitness for the business in which he is now engaged — having always the reputation among his brethren of the bar of uncommon diplomatic ability in the highest and best sense of the word. Reposing the fullest confidence in his intentions and judgment (and I know him well, he has long been my most intimate friend) I commend him and his mission to your attention.

Respectfully your's

W. M. Dickson.